Before an emergency threatens the state, have a plan in place. Preregistration for a spot in a special needs shelter is important and strongly encouraged to make sure necessary resources are available. Go to FloridaDisaster.org/Shelters for special needs registration by county.

If you are a caregiver, you should accompany the special needs client. Bring enough items to last at least five days for both you and the client. Use this checklist to prepare for your stay.

**Medical Supplies and Equipment**
- List of current prescription and over the counter medications. A seven-day supply is recommended.
- Documentation of medical information and service providers. Include provider contact information.
- Diabetes equipment and supplies
- Catheter supplies
- Ostomy supplies
- Nebulizer and supplies
- Oxygen supplies
- CPAP/BiPAP machine and supplies
- Wound care supplies
- Incontinence supplies
- Any other specialized medical item you may need.

**Assistive Devices and Supplies**
- Dentures
- Hearing aids with extra batteries
- Extra pair of glasses or dark glasses
- Cane, walker, wheelchair, electric wheelchair/scooter or any other mobility device
- Extra batteries and chargers for electrical equipment such as a wheel chair, scooter, etc
- Any other specialized assistive items you may need.

**Food**
- Non-Perishable snacks
- Non-Perishable drinks
- Special dietary foods if you require them.

**Equipment and Entertainment Items**
- Cell phone with charger
- Radio and compatible headphones or ear buds
- Flashlight and batteries
- Books, magazines, quiet games, etc.
- Small personal entertainment devices

**Personal Items**
- Body wipes or washcloth and towels
- Toiletries
- Shoes—especially specialty ones
- Extra clothing, including undergarments and socks
- Sheets and blanket or sleeping bag and pillow
- ID with current address
- Important papers and emergency contacts
- Insurance card

**Service Animal Supplies**
- Food and dishes
- Plastic bags and other similar items
- Crate and leash
- Medicine

**Pet Supplies**
Not all shelters allow pets, check with your county for pet-friendly locations near you.
- Food and dishes
- Plastic bags and other similar items
- Crate and leash
- Medicine

**Items not allowed in the shelter**
- Firearms or weapons
- Alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs
- Perishable food items

The conditions in a shelter can be austere and might be stressful. A shelter should be a place of last resort. It is a life boat, not a cruise ship.